

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of certifying at least existence of a prescribed electronic information released on a network at prescribed time and date, said network connecting one or more computer servers and a plurality of client computers, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

accessing a prescribed electronic information stored in prescribed one of plurality of client computers using information of its location from one of the computer servers based on a request from the prescribed one of the client computers;

obtaining a copy of the prescribed electronic information;

generating prescribed attribute information from at least the location and time and date when said step of accessing the prescribed electronic information is executed;

generating a prescribed electronic certificate by uniquely specifying the electronic information and the attribute information;

obtaining and storing the prescribed electronic certificate in a first memory; and

storing the copy of the electronic information in a second memory.

Claim 2 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said first memory is provided in the one of the computer servers, and said prescribed electronic information is stored in said second memory by tying up at least with the electronic certificate and the attribute information

Claim 3 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said second memory is provided in the one of the computer servers.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method of certifying the electronic information released on a network at prescribed time and date, said network connecting one or more computer servers and a plurality of client computers, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

accessing, periodically, electronic information stored in one of client computers using information of its location from one of the computer servers based on a request from the one of the client computers;

copying the electronic information at each period access;

generating attribute information at each periodic access from at least the location, access time, and date when the step of periodically accessing the electronic information is executed, and an access condition;

generating an electronic certificate by uniquely specifying each of the electronic information and respective attribute information and;

obtaining and storing the each of the electronic certificates in a first memory; and

storing each copy of the electronic information by tying up each copy of the electronic information with at least one of the electronic certificates and one of the applicable attribute information in a second memory.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 4, further comprising ~~the step of~~ providing the electronic information together with the respective of the electronic certificate and attribute information to the one of client computers.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 4, wherein said ~~step of~~ periodically accessing the electronic information is executed from a second of the computer servers.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 4, wherein said ~~step~~  
~~of~~ periodically accessing the electronic information is executed at a predetermined interval.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method according to claims 1 and 4, further  
comprising ~~the steps of~~:

displaying one or more links respectively representing the electronic information; and  
allowing access to the electronic information using an applicable link by one of the  
client computers.

Claim 9 (Original): The method according to claim 8, wherein said one of the client  
computers is a public use computer.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 4, further comprising  
~~the steps of~~:

detecting a change in contents of the electronic information, and  
storing, if the change is detected, the change in the second memory in addition to the  
electronic information initially stored.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method according to either one of claims 1 and  
4, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

generating a database from one or more electronic information stored in the second  
memory, said database being provided in one of the computers other than the one of the  
computer servers; and

allowing retrieval by a public of the electronic information via the one of the client  
computers other than the one of the computer servers.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method according to either one of claims 1 and 4, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- generating one or more abstracts of the electronic information stored in the memory;
- generating a data base from the one or more abstracts, said database being provided in one of the computers other than the one of the computer servers; and
- allowing retrieval by the public for an abstract by the one of the computers other than the one of the computer servers.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method according to either one of claims 1 and 4, further comprising ~~steps of~~:

- storing information indicating availability of retrieval for the electronic information via the network in a third memory when the electronic information can be retrieved via a one of the plurality of client computers.

Claim 14 (Original): The method according to either of claims 1 and 4, wherein said network includes an Internet.

Claim 15 (Original): The method according to either one of claims 1 and 4, wherein said electronic information includes a document described by a markup language generating a web page.

Claim 16 (Original): The method according to either one of claims 1 and 4, wherein said location information includes a uniform resource locator (URL).

Claim 17 (Original): The method according to claim 4, wherein said access condition includes at least any one of an access source IP address of the one of the client computers and a number of access times.

Claim 18 (Original): The method according to either one of claims 1 and 4, wherein said electronic information is stored in the one of the client computers that makes said request.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The method according to either one of claims 1 and 4, wherein said ~~step of~~ accessing the electronic information is executed at an optional time which an operator of the one of the client computer generating the request is not aware of.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The method according to either one of claims 1 and 4, wherein said ~~step of~~ generating an electronic certificate is executed by a third computer other than the one of the computer servers.

Claim 21 (Original): The method according to claim 4, wherein said attribute information further includes at least any one of an electronic information displaying period of time, the access source IP address, and a number of access times.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The method according to either one of claims 1 and 4, wherein said uniquely specifying ~~step~~ includes ~~the steps of~~:

calculating a first hash value from both of the electronic information and the attribute information;

obtaining a second hash value; and

assigning the first hash value and the second hash value to the electronic certificate as inherent information for the electronic information.

Claim 23 (Original): The method according to claim 4, wherein said access condition is designated by the one of the client computers when the request is made.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 4, further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

detecting if an object is included in the electronic information when the electronic information is provided to the one of the client computers; and

changing contents of a copy of the electronic information by describing a reference into the copy of the electronic information for the object to be viewed in the one of the client computers.

Claim 25 (Original): The method of claim 24, wherein said object is one of embedded inline in the electronic information and referred to as an external resource.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The method according to either one of claims 1 and 4, wherein said ~~step of~~ accessing electronic information is executed either via the Internet or with a computer readable medium.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A system for certifying at least existence of electronic information released on a network at a time and date, said network connecting one or more computer servers and a plurality of client computers, said system comprising:

an accessing device configured to access electronic information stored in one of the plurality of client computers using information of a location of the electronic information based on a request from the one of the plurality of client computers, said accessing device being provided in one of the computer servers;

a copying device configured to copy the electronic information;

an attribute information generating device configured to generate attribute information from at least the location and an access time and date when the electronic information is accessed;

an electronic certificate generating device configured to generate an electronic certificate by uniquely specifying the electronic information and the attribute information;

an electronic certificate obtaining device configured to obtain the electronic certificate; and

a storing device configured to store the copy of the electronic information.

Claim 28 (Original): The system according to claim 27, wherein said storing device is provided in the one of the computer servers, and said electronic information is stored in said storing device by tying up the electronic information with at least the electronic certificate and the attribute information

Claim 29 (Original): The method according to claim 27, wherein said storing device is provided in the one of the client servers.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A system for certifying at least existence of electronic information released on a network at a time and date, said network connecting one or more computer servers and a plurality of client computers, said system comprising:

an accessing device configured to periodically access the electronic information stored in one of the client computers using information of a location of the electronic information based on an instruction from the one of the client computers, said accessing device being provided in one of the computer servers;

a copying device configured to copy the electronic information at each of accesses;

an attribute information generating device configured to generate respective attribute information at each of accesses from at least the location, an access time, and date when the electronic information is accessed, and an access condition;

an electronic certificate generating device configured to generate an electronic certificates by uniquely specifying and certifying the existence at the time and date and contents of each of the electronic information and the attribute information;

an electronic certificate obtaining device configured to obtain each of the electronic certificates; and

a storing device configured to store each of the copies of the electronic information by tying up the electronic information with the respective one of the electronic certificates and respective one of the applicable attribute information.

Claim 31 (Original): The system according to claim 30, further comprising a providing device configured to provide the electronic information together with the applicable electronic certificate and attribute information to the one of client computers.

Claim 32 (Original): The system according to claim 30, wherein said electronic information is accessed a second of the another computer servers.



Claim 33 (Original): The system according to claim 30, wherein said electronic information is accessed at an interval.

Claim 34 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, further comprising:

a link displaying device configured to display one or more links respectively representing the location of the electronic information; and

an accessing device configured to allow a public to access the electronic information using an applicable link, said access allowing device being provided in one of the plurality of client computers.

Claim 35 (Original): The system according to claim 34, wherein said one of the plurality of client computers is a public computer.

Claim 36 (Original): The system according to claim 30, further comprising:

a detecting device configured to detect a change in contents of the electronic information, and

a storing device configured to store, if the change is detected, the change in addition to the electronic information initially stored.

Claim 37 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, further comprising:

a database generating device configured to generate a database from one or more electronic information stored in the storing device, said database being provided in one of the computers other than the one of the computer servers; and

a retrieving device configured to allow public retrieval of the electronic information, said retrieving device being provided in the one of the computers other than the one of the computer servers.

Claim 38 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, further comprising:

an abstract generating device configured to generate one or more abstracts of the electronic information stored in the storing device;

a database generating device configured to generate a database from the one or more abstract, said database being provided in one of the computers other than the one of the computer servers; and

a retrieving device configured to allow public to retrieval of the abstracts, said retrieving device being provided in the one of the computers other than the one of the computer servers.

Claim 39 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, further comprising:

a storing device configured to store information indicating availability of retrieval of the electronic information via the network when the electronic information can be retrieved, said storing device being provided in one of the plurality of client computers.

Claim 40 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, wherein said network includes an Internet.

Claim 41 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, wherein said electronic information includes a document described by a markup language generating a web page.

Claim 42 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, wherein said electronic information includes a uniform resource locator (URL).

Claim 43 (Original): The system according to claim 30, wherein said access condition includes at least any one of an access source IP address of the one of the client computers and a number of access times.

Claim 44 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, wherein said electronic information is stored in the one of the client computers that makes said request.

Claim 45 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, wherein said electronic information is accessed at an optional time which an operator of the one of the client computer generating the request is not aware of.

Claim 46 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, wherein said electronic certificate is generated by a third computer other than the one of the computer servers.

Claim 47 (Original): The system according to claim 30, wherein said attribute information further includes at least any one of an electronic information displaying period of time, the access source IP address, and a number of access times.

Claim 48 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, wherein said uniquely specification is executed by calculating a hash value of both of the electronic information and the attribute information in a prescribed manner as inherent information identifying the electronic information, and assigning the hash value to the applicable electronic certificate.

Claim 49 (Original): The system according to claim 30, wherein said access condition is designated by the one of the client computers when the request is made.

Claim 50 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, further comprising:

a detecting device configured to detect if an object is included in the copy of the electronic information when the copy of the electronic information is provided to the one of the client computers; and

a changing device configured to change contents of the copy of the electronic information by describing a reference into the copy for the object to be viewed in the one of the client computers.

Claim 51 (Original): The system according to claim 50, wherein said object is one of embedded inline in the electronic information and referred to as an external resource.

Claim 52 (Currently Amended): The system according to either one of claims 27 and [[31]] 30, wherein said electronic information is accessed either via the Internet or with a computer readable medium.

Claim 53 (Currently Amended): A computer readable medium storing a program for certifying at least existence of electronic information released on a network at a time and date, said program performing ~~the steps of~~:

accessing electronic information stored in one of a plurality of client computers using information of its location from one of the computer servers based on a request from the one of the plurality of client computers;

obtaining a copy of the electronic information;

generating attribute information from at least the location, an access time, and date when said step of accessing the electronic information is executed;

generating an electronic certificate by uniquely specifying the electronic information and the attribute information;

obtaining the electronic certificate;

storing the copy of the electronic information in a memory.

Claim 54 (Original): The system according to claim 53, wherein said uniquely specification is executed by calculating a hash value of both of the electronic information and the attribute information in a manner as an inherent information identifying the electronic information, and assigning the hash value to the applicable electronic certificate.

Claim 55 (Currently Amended): A method of certifying at least existence of a prescribed electronic information released on a network at prescribed time and date, said

network connecting one or more computer servers and a plurality of client computers, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- accessing a prescribed electronic information stored in the one or more of the computer servers based on a request from a service provider;
- obtaining a copy of the prescribed electronic information;
- generating prescribed attribute information from at least the location and time and date when said step of accessing the prescribed electronic information is executed;
- generating a prescribed electronic certificate by uniquely specifying the electronic information and the attribute information;
- obtaining and storing the prescribed electronic certificate in a first memory; and
- storing the copy of the electronic information in a second memory separate from the first memory.